

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH PHILIPPS, HYACINTHE LEBEL, AND RAOUL GRIMOIN-SANSON, OF
PARIS, FRANCE.

FABRIC.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 692,029, dated January 28, 1902.

Application filed August 6, 1901. Serial No. 71,100. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JOSEPH PHILIPPS, HYACINTHE LEBEL, and RAOUL GRIMOIN-SANSON, citizens of the Republic of France, residing at Paris, France, have invented a certain new and useful Improved Fabric or Material, (for which application for Letters Patent has been made in Great Britain under date of July 15, 1901, and in France the 28th of January 1901, No. 307,532,) of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved fabric or material which possesses all the flexibility of ordinary material, although containing cork strips or sheets. This new product has not the drawback of becoming detached or altered by disintegration, as in the case of hat-linings, which at first glance might be taken to resemble our new product. The latter is not in any way affected by moisture and does not shrink with the heat. It has all the advantages of rubber materials without having their drawbacks. Its lightness insures it a number of applications where other materials could not be used with advantage on account of their too great density or weight.

The cork fabric the subject of this invention can be used for garments on account of its agreeable touch, its flexibility, and its property of being waterproof. By fixing to the surface of our product a thin layer of flock of wool or cotton, or floss of silk, according to the material it is proposed to obtain, and by then felting or carding this thin adhesive layer a homogeneous material is produced so closely resembling a woven fabric, cloth, silk, or cotton as to be liable to be mistaken for it. In order to complete the illusion and to impart to our cork fabric all the appearance of fabrics and cloths for garments, we apply various tints to the material to enable it to be used by tailors, drapers, and others. In addition to this its insulating properties render it a salable article as insulating material of the first quality, as cork is not only a bad conductor of electricity, but also a very bad conductor of heat.

The success of this new product depends

greatly on the two following operations: first, the division of the cork into thin sheets, (without using, as in the usual processes, agglomerated substances, and, second, the intimate gluing or cementing of the cork to the fabric or foundation. For the first operation a certain skill is required, which is rapidly acquired by practice. The quality of the cork must be well chosen, so as to obtain extremely fine sheets or layers. It is obvious that cork thus cut and sustained or backed by a relatively thin or light fabric united together by a suitable adhesive and strong compression will maintain all its elasticity and present the appearance of a new material agreeable to handle and use. The second operation, the intimate adhesion, is obtained, as above stated, by the compression—say in a hydraulic press or the like—of the fabric impregnated or coated with glue or adhesive and the thin sheets of cork stated. The layers or covering of wool or cotton flock or floss of silk are obtained by attaching these materials in a comminuted state to the cork, which is coated on its surface with glue or paste. This is, however, an ordinary process, the same as for dyeing or printing.

This new material is suitable for use as material for dresses or garments, upholstery, coverings and cases of various descriptions, imitation morocco or other leather articles, and as an insulating material.

What we claim as our invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A new fabric, consisting of a woven or other fabric with a layer of thin sheet cork attached thereto and a covering of wool, cotton, or like flock or floss on said sheet-cork, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof we have signed our names to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOSEPH PHILIPPS.
HYACINTHE LEBEL.
RAOUL GRIMOIN-SANSON.

Witnesses:

EDWARD P. MACLEAN,
EMILE LEDRET.